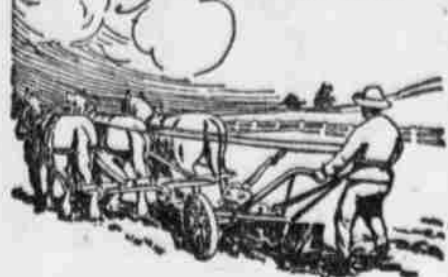


NOTES From MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Feed alfalfa to the hogs.
Keep the laying hens active.
Give the colt needed exercise.
It does not pay to send half-fat sheep to market.

Change of feed occasionally serves as an appetizer.

Fowls in confinement, to do well, need a variety of food.
Concrete floors in the barn help a great deal in saving manure.

Sweet food for hogs is better than any that has fermented or soured.

Only sound fruit and vegetables should be stored in the cellar for winter use.

Red clover in bloom is not good for hogs, but when young it makes a fine pasture.

An egg may be fertile and hatch and still the chick will not live because of lack of vitality.

Strong brine, thickened with soft soap, makes a good mixture to rid cows and calves of lice.

Do not haul waste products back to the farm from the creamery in the same cans used for delivering milk.

A calf from a poor cow is a doubtful proposition, but a calf from a good cow poorly raised is almost a crime.

Animal feeding saves the cost of hauling farm products to market; it creates a demand for the crops on the farm.

Don't hurry the cows from the stable to the pasture or vice versa. Dogs have no place on a dairy farm to help in driving cows.

One advantage in keeping sheep on the farm is that whenever they are kept the farm presents a neater and cleaner appearance.

Never grease the hen that is setting, as grease getting on the shells of the eggs will close the pores and smother the chickens.

Horse breeding requires more capital, is more profitable if successful and involves larger losses if not, than any other kind of stock breeding.

Coarse, masculine-looking pullets never make the best layers. Select those whose heads have a distinctly feminine appearance and expression.

Hearty eaters are most to be desired for cows, and they may usually be selected while they are calves. You will find a dainty calf to be a dainty cow.

The food properties of wheat bran and high grade alfalfa meal are very much the same, though it is best to use both when available for variety's sake.

Every farm ought to be equipped with a crowbar and a ten-foot iron-tipped wooden spike for moving heavy objects. They save time and take the place of muscle.

Build silos, grow less acres of corn, but utilize the whole crop in its best form, and grow alfalfa on the corn acreage saved for a cheap, palatable home-grown balancer for corn.

Just because an ear of corn is large does not necessarily make it the best for seed. See that the rows are straight from tip to butt, and that the kernels are all well formed and plump.

Let us not wait until spring to make up our minds about what we are going to do in the way of poultry raising. But in our planning, let us not neglect the present work in the poultry yard.

The perfect bird in any variety or breed is very hard to find. Occasionally we find some very fine specimens, but when we go over the birds from head to toe we are sure to find that something is not just as it should be.

Of course you have saved your best grain for seed. Next is to see that it is clean. Right here is where the fanning mill pays big dividends. It increases the crop, prevents foul weeds, and best of all makes better seed for next year.

It is not best to keep the colts tied up day after day, nor is it best to allow them to run with the mothers while the latter are at work in the fields. Keep them in a lot that has good fences, where they can run and play and eat in the sunshine.

Get rid of the old hens.
Roup is a dangerous disease.
Geese rarely contract disease.
Give the hogs what they will eat.
Keep pure, fresh water always within reach.

Having things convenient saves labor and discouragements.

To avoid disease, it is better to breed away from it.

Regularity of feeding and work makes long lived horses.

Salt should always be accessible, as well as fresh, pure water.

There are 4,386,000 mules and 20,567,000 horses in the United States.

If kerosene is rubbed into leather hardened by water, it will soften it well.

Be careful and not close a can containing warm milk which has not been aerated.

Animals must be fed on food that they relish, in order to produce the best results.

The guinea fowl is a great forager and destroys many insects that other fowls will not touch.

The Mediterranean or egg breeds are Leghorns, Minorcas, Spanish, Blue Andalusians and Anconas.

Don't house the sheep too closely. Cold is not as bad as damp, foul air. Give shelter instead of warmth.

See that the garden tools are dry and properly stored. A little paint and oil will make the matter surer.

Remove from the dairy herd at once any animal suspected of being in bad health and do not use her milk.

Stock can be fed with profit only when they make a steady gain. Any falling off costs double to regain.

Dairy cows should be fed twenty-five to forty pounds of silage, supplemented with five to ten pounds of hay, daily.

Scratches, grease-heal and other animal diseases come directly from not taking proper care of the horses' feet.

Blackberries should be given space in the garden, for there are few, if any, fruits that give quicker and better returns.

Use a metallic strainer; it is practically impossible to keep cloth strainers sweet and clean, and free from bacteria.

Aim to bring the pullets into laying condition at a time which will be most consistent with a continuous winter production of eggs.

It costs no more to keep a flock of known good layers than it does to keep a flock of poor layers and the first kind is profitable.

In selecting the brood sows, as in other lines of farm work, the man who can think three or four years ahead is the man who will succeed.

Water scalding hot is not good to throw out the grindstone with in cold weather. Better take a little longer and use water fairly hot, but not boiling hot.

Root crops, such as parsnips, beets and carrots, may be prevented from shriveling in the winter if they are covered slightly with dry sand in the bin or box.

Plan to put away some good clover or alfalfa hay to feed the hens. They will more than pay you for your trouble by the increased amount of eggs that will be produced.

Every farm ought to have a little work shop stocked with a few good tools and plenty of bolts of various sizes, nuts, rivets, a few pieces of round and strap iron and such things.

Green forage crops of some sort can be grown on most any farm, and they yield a large amount of fine feed. Oats and field peas, rye, rape, corn and vetch are some that can be sown with results.

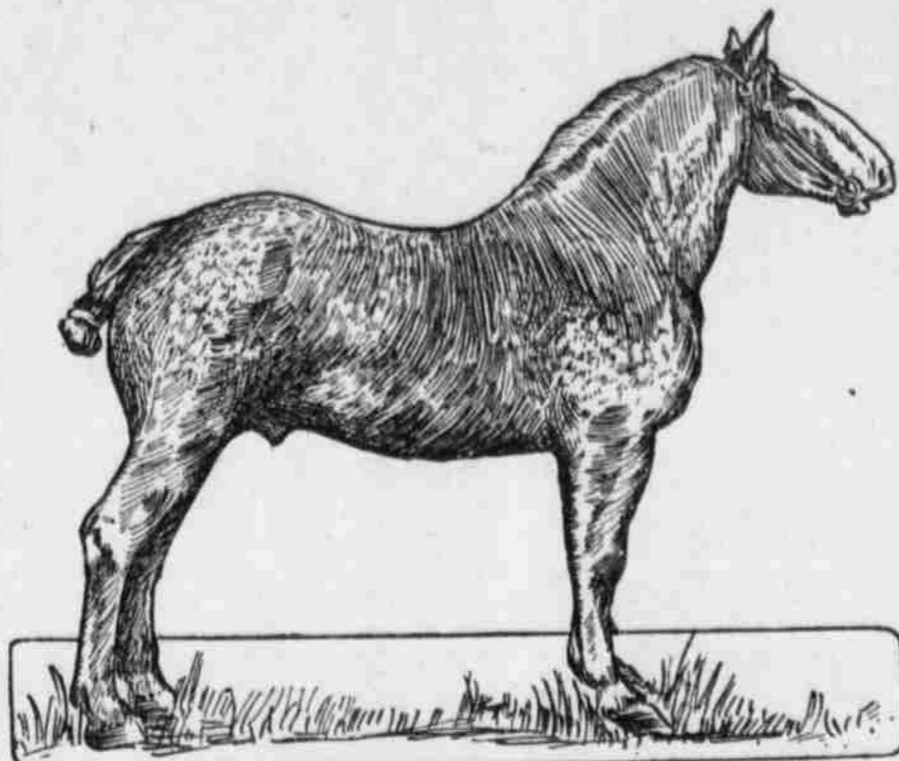
A pig's tail is said to indicate unerringly the condition of the animal. If it hangs loose it shows that the pig is not well and that its food should be changed; if it is curled tightly, the pig is healthy and happy.

The successful poultryman must plan each year to raise a few more chickens than he has hens. In this manner he will be enabled to cull freely. Keep only the best and carry over at least half as many pullets as hens.

If any of the fowls have rough, mealy scales on their shanks, wash the shanks with kerosene, then apply vaseline and apply the vaseline continuously every other day until the scales have returned to their normal appearance.

Keep the hens active by making them work for their food. Put it in straw or other similar material so they will have to scratch for it. This will prevent them from getting fat, and this is important, as fat hens do not lay a great number of eggs.

POINTS A DRAFT HORSE SHOULD POSSESS



Excellent Percheron, Winner of First Prize.

A good draft horse should be fairly low set, blocky, deep and wide, and should be symmetrical or well proportioned and should stand squarely on comparatively short, straight legs. The good stallion should show lots of style, carrying his head well with ears erect and showing life and spirit.

The draft stallion should have a strong masculine, yet refined head, with good width of forehead, clean-cut face, large, bright eyes, well set ears and firm lips. Heads too fine are objected to, as is also the dished face; but an inclination to a Roman nose in the stallion considered desirable by most horsemen.

The neck should be rather long, clean-cut throat latch and set up on top of the shoulders and not straight in front like the head of a cow. The shoulders should have good slope and the withers should be strong and well laid into the back. Sloping shoulders allow the head to be carried well up and distribute the draft evenly along the collar. The back should be comparatively short with arched ribs, giving the barrel-like appearance of roundness. The loin should be short, well packed with muscle, and the flanks should be low. Short coupled, low-flanked horses are generally strong and easy goers.

The forearm and gaskin should be heavily muscled and strong. Below the knees the leg should appear wide and flat with clean, strong bone and tendons. The pasterns should be of fair length and should slope about 45 degrees from a large, well-rounded foot. The foot should have considerable depth, and width at the heel is also important. The hind legs should be straight with a wide, clean hock,

showing no puffs or bony enlargements. A wide, flat appearance to the leg is again wanted, but the hind pasterns, though they should be strong, need not slope as much as the front ones. In action the horse should show a good, fast, square, straight walk, and at the trot should go fairly high in front and behind. Do not get slow, logy, careless walkers. They never are good horses.

Be sure to get size and blockiness, coupled with good, strong, straight legs and plenty of style and life. In selecting, look the horse over carefully, examining minutely every part, but do not pay too much attention to minor particulars and so miss the important features. Pay most attention to feet and legs, head and coupling, action and style.

Extreme care should be taken to see that the sire you select for your colts does not have any of the following diseases. These are defined as infectious, contagious or transmissible diseases or insoundness:

Eye diseases: As cataract, amaurosis (glass eye), periodic ophthalmia (moon blindness).

Respiratory diseases: Laryngeal hemiplegia (roaring or whistling), pulmonary emphysema (heaves or wind).

Nervous troubles: Chorea (St. Vitus dance), constituting string halt, shivering and crampiness.

Bone diseases: Bone spavin, ringbone, side bones, navicular disease, bog spavin and curb, and abnormal hocks.

Infectious and contagious diseases: Glanders or farcy, mange, tumors, and any malformations liable to be transmitted.

GOOD FEED ONLY MAKES DAIRY PAY

Cow Cannot Produce Good Milk Unless Given Ample Supply of Nourishing Food.

(By GEORGE H. HLITZKE.)

With good cows there must also be good feeding. The dairy cow can not produce good milk without a good supply of nourishing food from which to produce milk. Also the food given might be very rich in feeding value, but often not enough of it is fed to the cow.

Thus the cows get only food enough to maintain their bodies and very little of it goes to production of milk.

This, of course, would be feeding at a loss, when a little more food added to this would all be turned to milk, as the other food has already supplied the wants of the body, and this extra is the paying food. The milk it produces pays for it and leaves a clean profit beside.

Therefore, can we afford to withhold this extra food and feed only enough to maintain the body? Such feeding would certainly not be profitable. So in place of economizing with the feed, it would be better to give the cows a rich supply, and get the milk which, after all, is what we are feeding for.

But there comes the question of what is a good supply of food? We might supply the cows with an unlimited amount of food—in fact, we might supply them with all they can consume and still get no milk-flow of worth, if such food does not contain the proper nutriment.

It is not only a bulk of food that is necessary, but it is the nutritive value of the food given, that counts.

As concentrated foods are the richest in food value, the cows should be supplied with such food as wheat-bran and ground corn at least twice a day with their ration.

This gives them a high per cent. of protein and fat, which they cannot get from the hay.

Poor feeding is an utter waste of the food that the cows eat, and the time and labor of caring for them while the good feeding will pay for the feed and the labor, and leaves a clean profit. Can we then afford to withhold the necessary food?

If the dairy is not paying there is something wrong. Either the cows are poor, or the management is poor. There is a way to make it pay. Let us study our business and seek this profit.

BREED AND HANDLE HORSES AND MULES

Each Mare Should Have Special Place Where She Is Tied to Receive Daily Grain Feed.

The pleasure and the satisfaction of breeding and handling good horses remain, long after the cost of the foundation stock is forgotten.

In mild weather mares must be kept outside in the open sheds, both day and night. Each mare should have a special place where she is tied to receive her grain feed. If fed from an ordinary trough, the more vicious mares may kick the others, and gobble most of the feed. Roughage may be fed safely from the racks in the yard.

Wheat, bran and oats for grain, and clover, alfalfa, or mixed hay makes a fine ration for the growing colts.

During the first winter, provide some sort of sheltered yard for the colts, so that they may run about and exercise for a few hours every day when the weather is not too stormy.

Large draft horses furnish the brawn to save men's energies for the work that requires skill and care.

If you have mules on the farm that are coming two years old, break them now—that is, work for half a day at a time—it won't hurt them; but on the other hand will do them good.

The mule is easily broken, as all farmers who have handled them will testify, but it is a good thing to get them used to being handled before they get too old; then they are ready for the regular work when you need them.

The great superiority of the mule consists in his greater endurance of heat and severe labor, and ability to subsist on less food. He is undoubtedly the most economical machine for the production of power.

Salt as a Fertilizer.

Almost any sort of material that contains soluble potash, phosphoric acid or nitrates has more or less fertilizing value, but salt has not a trace of any of these. Sodium and chlorine are all it has to offer. Salt might possibly have some little effect on the physical condition of the soil under some conditions, but even this would be too slight to warrant its use.

Feeding Molasses.

Molasses in one form or another is greatly relished by cows and horses as well, but it is an unpleasant thing to feed and draws flies by the millions.

MODISH TAFFETA DRESS FOR LESS THAN TEN DOLLARS

TAFFETA—which promises to be the most fashionable of silks, by the way—is one of the most beautiful of fabrics and one of the least expensive. It is woven in widths varying from about twenty-four to thirty-six inches, with both narrower and wider widths occasionally shown. The price ranges from about seventy-five cents to a dollar and a half a yard for average weight in the twenty-four and thirty-six-inch patterns.

The thirty-six-inch width is most convenient for cutting the present styles in gowns, and one may calculate the amount required as equal to four times the height of the figure, with a little allowance for hems, in



the narrower widths. In those a yard wide or more only twice the length of the figure, plus a half-yard, will be needed. This extra half-yard is consumed by hems and scant drapery in the skirt.

If the design selected calls for an overdress or extra drapery, more material will be required. Patterns designate the amount needed, but for a simple dress the allowance given above is sufficient.

In the simple and attractive dress shown in the picture a taffeta a yard wide was used, and four yards made the garment. It is in a sapphire blue (shot with black), with a high luster which is very brilliant and effective.

The skirt is in two widths, shaped at the sides to fit the hips. The back breadth has a small cluster of gathers at the middle of the belt to give the

required fullness, and is hemmed along one edge. This edge is folded over the front breadth, curving in toward the bottom, and is stitched down to within eight inches of the bottom. From here down it falls open, but the front breadth lies under the opening. This gives room for an easy step. There is a three-inch hem at the bottom of the skirt.

The kimona waist is cut with body and sleeves in one, with two plaits over the shoulders. This gives the effect under the arms of the fashionable "bat wing" sleeve.

The open neck and sleeves are outlined with a narrow border of black fur, of which about two and a quarter yards are required.

Anyone who knows even a little about sewing can put this very simple dress together. The skirt fastens with hooks and eyes (very small ones) at the left side, under the hem in the back breadth. It is hung to a fitted girdle. The kimona blouse is worn over a net waist or neckpiece and fastens surplice fashion in the front.

A girdle of ribbon or a fancy belt is needed to finish this gown, and there are several styles that look well with it. The handsomest is the Roman striped girdle showing brilliant colors. This is made of ribbon about eight inches wide, finished with a loop and short ends at the front.

A crushed girdle of brocaded ribbon in the rich colors of the season, fastened with a black velvet buckle at the left side, is very pretty. It has no ends, but is finished with an over-lapping ruffle.

A girdle made of black satin ribbon laid in folds about the waist and finished with a single long tab, makes a quiet finish. This tab should be rounded at the end and embroidered in bright colors, or gathered with a long tassel of silk or beads.

Allowing four and a half yards of silk at a dollar and a quarter a yard, two and a quarter yards of fur at forty cents a yard, the materials, including sewing silk and hooks and eyes, may be bought for seven dollars. This leaves three dollars for the girdle and under waist, out of an appropriation of ten dollars. But nearly every one possesses a thin waist that is available for these kimona blouses, and girdles are a part of everyone's wardrobe this winter. At any rate, ten dollars will cover the expense of all the materials needed to furnish the gown, the girdle and the net under-waist.

Some of the new shades of dark green, the light shades of brown and the dull reds made up in this style into gowns as satisfactory as the one pictured, which is smart and very useful.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Neckwear an Important Accessory



CAREFUL attention to the finishing details of the toilette is a mark of distinctive dressing. This is apparent in the matter of neckwear, and new ideas are advanced constantly by manufacturers of this important accessory of dress. A style is introduced and makes good with the public, becoming a fashion. Its manufacturers then vary it to suit women of various types and ages.

The sailor collar and fichu motifs have predominated this season, and innumerable changes have been the result of their inspiration. But they are designed for the attractive and youthful neck and must be adapted to those who do not possess a round, plump throat.

A glimpse of perfectly plain, fine net, with high, smoothly fitting collar, is worn by the woman whose neck is not slightly when bare. This net is so fine and so well fitted that it is as smooth as the skin and smoother.

Besides the fichu and sailor collar ideas there are many small fancy bows, ribbon flowers and Maline ornaments for wearing as a finish at the neck. Jabots are always worn and when they are not featured are replaced with frills finishing the "V"-shaped opening at the neck of blouses. They are especially becoming to slender women, and the fine laces in style at present make beautiful ones.

In designing neckwear those who produce it must consider how to make it becoming, and women in selecting it must consider whether it is suitable or not for them. The jabot with

straight band made of net finished at the top with three tucks, shown in the picture, is suited to the woman with a slim, long neck. Below the tucks, a row of tiny jet beads or French knots make a pretty finish and lessen the apparent width of the collar.

The jabot attached to the band is of finest shadow lace and simulates fichu ends. Black velvet ribbon outlines an opening at the throat where the fine net of the collar is let in in a small narrow "V." The jabot is finished at the bottom with a little velvet bow. Very small festoons of jet beads fasten the upper ends of the velvet to the neckband. They mark the point of the "V" and are placed on the little bow.

Still more cleverly designed to the needs of a too-slender neck is the other collar and jabot. It is made of lace and black satin. The band is a straight piece of lace with the scalloped edge folded down like a turnover collar. The jabot is of the same lace cascaded to the front. Two shaped pieces of satin are cut out and lined with fine muslin or mull. They are sewed to the collar and upper part of the jabot and finished with French knots in blue silk.

The graceful sailor collar of lace and the net collar with frill of lace at the front are new patterns in these popular neck pieces. The net collar is double with insertion and edging in a fine Cluny pattern of inexpensive lace. This collar is quite new in design and combines the advantages of the fichu and jabot.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.